

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGRE-00 TRSE-00 L-03 OMB-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01
SP-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06
OES-06 /055 W

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R 082030Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL TORONTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4647

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TORONTO 2251

OTTAWA PLS POUCH ALL CONGENS IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CA

SUBJECT: ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY TOLLS

REF: OTTAWA 4753; STATE 294986

1. CONGEN DISCUSSED TOLL QUESTION WITH GREAT LAKES WATERWAY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT STUART ARMOUR WHO FEARS THAT GOC WILL GO OFF "WITH FIEW IN EYES" AND ACT UNILATERALLY. ARMOUR SAID THAT 1965 REPORT OF U.S. SENATE SUB-COMMTTEE CHAIRED BY SENATOR LAUSCHE TOOK POSITION THAT WHILE CANADAIN SEAWAY ACT OF 1951 DOES NOT REFER TO POSSIBILITY, US PL 83-358 DOES AUTHORIZE UNILATERAL ACTION BY US IN EVENT OF INABILITY TO REACH AGREEMENT IN TOLLS AND THAT NORMAL OPERATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW WOULD AFFORD SIMILAR RIGHT OF UNILATERAL ACTION TO GOC AS RESULT.

2. ARMOUR TOLD CONGEN THAT SUCCESSIVE ONTARIO GOVERNMENTS OF PREMIERS FROST, ROBERTS AND DAVIS HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY OPPOSED TO TOLL INCREASES AND THAT AT GREAT LAKES COMMISSION MEETING IN TORONTO LAST YEAR, PREMIER DAVIS SPOKE STRONGLY AGAINST INCREASE. ONTARIO POSITION IN PART BASED ON CONCEPT THAT LAKE ONTARIO ONLY ONE OF GREAT LAKES REQUIRING PAYMENT FOR ENTRY FROM EITHER END.

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3. HOWEVER, ARMOUR BELIEVES PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN

SIGNS OF WAFFLING POSITIN AS ONTARIO TREASURER DARCY MCKEOUGH BELIEVED IN SYMPATHY WITH FEDERAL TRANSPORT MINISTER LANG'S "USEE-PAY" CONCEPT, AN APPROACH ALREADY REJECTED BY THE MARITIME AND PRAIRIE PROVINCES.ARMOUR CONTINUED THAT OTTAWA MANDAIRNS DO NOT REALIZE THAT HISTORY OF CANADIAN TRANSPORT ONE OF SUBSIDIZATION AND THAT NEITHER ORE NOR GRAIN CAPTIVE TO LAKE TRANSPORT. HE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, IF RATE INCREASES INDUCE RAIL SHIPMENT OF ORE AND END THE "BACK HAUL" SYSTEM SO THAT SHIPS CARRYING GRAIN TO EXPORT POSITIONS ON THE ST. LAWRENCE RETURN IN BALLAST RATHER THAN HAULING ORE, CANADIAN GRAIN RATE WOULD "SKYROCKET."

4.ONTARIO GOVERNMENT INFORMED CONGEN DECEMBER 8 THAT PROVINCIAL POSITION NOT YET MADE KNOWN TO OTTAWA AND NO INFORMATION REGARDING SUCH WILL BE MADE PUBLIC UNTIL FEDERAL AUTHORITIES INFORMED. THIS EXPECTED NEXT FEW DAYS AND ONTARIO TRANSPORT MINISTER SNOW SCHEDULED TO MAKE STATEMENT IN PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE NEXT WEEK WHICH WILL BE REPORTED.
DIGGINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FEES, INLAND WATERWAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TORONT02251
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760454-0107
From: TORONTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761260/aaaabzyb.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OTTAWA 4753, 76 STATE 294986
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY TOLLS
TAGS: EWWT, CA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006